

In the Claims:

Change the claims as follows:

1.(currently amended) A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal said mitt comprising:

a hollow flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible palm side cleaning surface so that said hollow body is flexible with an open end for insertion of a hand into said body and a separate hollow thumb portion extending therefrom,

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a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for discharging fluid ~~from, said reservoir~~ extending continuously within said body from a top of a distal fingertip end to a bottom of a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said body, and transversely from one side to an opposite side of said mitt including extending into said thumb portion, and means for discharging fluid from said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports openable upon flexing of said mitt to form a concave configuration of said palm side
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pressurizing said reservoir causing said discharge ports to open;

said mitt having means on said palm side of said mitt for removing loose hairs on said pet comprising a predetermined denser pattern of flexible, solid nibs, on said palm side to engage pet hairs, to remove loose hairs, and to provide said nibs also providing an effective massage, said denser dense pattern of flexible nibs extending axially from said distal fingertip end to said proximal wrist end of said mitt and said denser dense pattern of nibs extending medially along a mid-line of said mitt.

2. (original) The mitt as in Claim 1 wherein said plurality of discharge ports extends through a large portion of said palm side of said mitt, said ports discharging cleaning fluid over said cleaning work surface of said palm side of said mitt.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The mitt as in Claim 2 + wherein said medially extending dense pattern of nibs includes a plurality of nib patterns having a central nib with further plurality of concentric circles of nibs, for massaging and removing hair snags and loose hairs when a circular motion of said mitt is used, wherein said dense pattern of nibs provides a substantial force to be exerted against the hide of the animal without collapsing said nibs from a perpendicular direction extending from said palm side work surface of said mitt.

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5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The mitt as in Claim 4 + wherein said mitt further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

7. (currently amended) The mitt as in Claim 6 + further comprising a hanging tab for suspending said mitt therefrom.

8. (currently amended) The mitt as in Claim 7 + wherein said mitt is molded of rubber.

9. (currently amended) A grooming and washing mitt for a pet animal, said mitt comprising:

a hollow flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible front palm side cleaning work surface with an open end for insertion of a hand into said body and a separate, flexible hollow thumb portion extending therefrom;

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a built-in fluid-retaining reservoir for discharging fluid therefrom, said reservoir extending continuously within said body from a top of a distal fingertip end to a bottom of a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said body, said reservoir having a plurality of discharge ports, and means for discharging fluid from said reservoir operable upon flexing of said palm side of said mitt to form a concave configuration causing increased pressure within said reservoir forcing said discharge ports to open; and said mitt having a predetermined pattern of flexible nibs on said palm side to engage pet hairs.

10. (original) The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said plurality of discharge ports extends through a large portion of said palm side of said mitt, said ports discharging cleaning fluid over said cleaning work surface of said palm side of said mitt.

11. (currently amended) The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said fluid discharge ports are formed by slits crossing each other at right angles to each other normally remain closed when no internal pressure is built up and the palm is kept essentially flat, but open when said palm side of said mitt is flexed in a concave configuration, said flexing of said building up internal pressure within said reservoir for discharging of said fluid therethrough.

12. (canceled)

13. (original) The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said mitt further includes a reservoir filling port and an integrally molded stopper removably attachable to said reservoir filling port.

14. (original) The mitt as in Claim 13 further comprising a hanging tab for suspending said mitt therefrom.

15. (original) The mitt as in Claim 9 wherein said mitt is molded of rubber.

16-34. (canceled)

35. (new) The method of grooming and washing a pet animal comprising the steps of:

filling a mitt with grooming fluid, said mitt comprising a hollow flexible body having a flexible rear side co-extensive with a flexible palm side cleaning surface so that said hollow body is flexible with an open end for insertion of a hand into said body and a separate, flexible hollow thumb portion extending therefrom, a built-in fluid retaining reservoir for said fluid extending continuously within said body from a top of a distal fingertip end to a bottom of a proximal wrist end adjacent to said open end of said body, and transversely from one side to an opposite side of said mitt including extending into said thumb portion, means for discharging fluid from said reservoir upon flexing of said mitt to form a concave configuration of said palm side pressurizing said reservoir causing ^{UPA} said discharge ports to open, and means on said palm side of said mitt for removing loose hairs on said pet comprising a predetermined pattern of flexible, solid nibs;

placing a hand into said mitt;

placing said mitt on a pet animal with the palm side in contact with said
pet animal;

bending said mitt to form a concave shape of said palm side to release
fluid into contact with said pet animal; and

massaging said pet animal, collecting loose hair by said nibs.
